

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Hongbiao Yu (Reg. No. L0521) on 23 April 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Amendment to the claims:

Claim 18 is amended as follows:

18. (Currently Amended) A capacity type sensor comprising:

a first electrode with a wider area;

a second electrode a with narrower area which is disposed on said first electrode with the wider area;

a third supporting member which is formed on said first electrode with the wider area;

a fourth supporting member which is supported by said third supporting member, wherein said second electrode with the narrower area is formed on said fourth supporting member;

a guard electrode which is disposed between said third supporting member and said fourth supporting member;

a potential equalizer to make the potential difference between said first electrode and said guard electrode close to zero; and

a capacity type sensor detector to detect an impedance change between said first electrode and said second electrode, and wherein

the potential equalizer is a gain circuit arranged between the guard electrode and the first electrode, the capacity type sensor detector is arranged between the gain circuit and the first electrode, and an output terminal is provided between the gain circuit and the capacity type sensor detector.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not teach or suggest (in combination with the other claim limitations) a capacity type sensor comprising a first electrode; a second electrode which is disposed oppositely to said first electrode; a guard electrode which is disposed oppositely to said first electrode and wherein a potential equalizer is a gain circuit arranged between the guard electrode and the first electrode, a capacity type sensor detector is arranged between the gain circuit and the first electrode, and an output terminal is provided between the gain circuit and the capacity type sensor detector (claims 1, 3-9, 20-23, & 25-28).

Art Unit: 2831

The prior art does not teach or suggest (in combination with the other claim limitations) a capacity type sensor comprising a first electrode and a second electrode which are oppositely disposed each other and an area of either one of said first and second electrode is made narrower than another; a guard electrode which is disposed between a first supporting member and a second supporting member and wherein a potential equalizer is a gain circuit arranged between the guard electrode and the first electrode, a capacity type sensor detector is arranged between the gain circuit and the first electrode, and an output terminal is provided between the gain circuit and the capacity type sensor detector (claims 10 & 13).

The prior art does not teach or suggest (in combination with the other claim limitations) a capacity type sensor comprising a first electrode with wider area; a second electrode with narrower area which is disposed on said first electrode with the wider area; a guard electrode which is disposed between a third supporting member and a fourth supporting member and wherein a potential equalizer is a gain circuit arranged between the guard electrode and the first electrode, a capacity type sensor detector is arranged between the gain circuit and the first electrode, and an output terminal is provided between the gain circuit and the capacity type sensor detector (claim 18).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Communication

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID M. SINCLAIR whose telephone number is (571)270-5068. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs. 8-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F. Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/589,350
Art Unit: 2831

Page 6

/D. M. S./
Examiner, Art Unit 2831
/Eric Thomas/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2831